GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3164
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
KARGIL ISSUE
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of countries including the USA have appreciated India`s tolerance and patience during the Kargil conflict;

(b) if so, whether he had given an assessment of Kargil events to these countries during the meeting held in Singapore between the External Affairs Ministers of all important countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this has given a boost to the Indian diplomacy and many countries have come forward for negotiations with India particularly, France, Russia and Japan;

(e) if so, the extent to which the atmosphere created by India has been exploited by the Indian Government to improve its relations with all big powers;

(f) whether these big powers are being provided with the latest information about Indo-Pakistan current conflicts; (g) if so, the extent to which they have appreciated India`s stand on this conflict; and (h) the extent to which India has achieved the goal in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a)-(c) Yes, Sir. India`s assessment and position on the armed intrusion and aggression by Pakistan, in the Kargil sector of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, were made known to the international community. The Minister of External Affairs also briefed Foreign Ministers at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) during his bilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the 6th ARF meeting a Singapore in July, 1999. The international community acknowledged our restraint, the skill and valour of our Armed Forces and the effectiveness of our diplomacy which acting together succeeded in evicting Pakistan`s armed intrusion and aggression.

(d) The European Union, of which France is a member, has been supportive of our position on terrorism and has made supportive references to India`s proposal for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The Russian Federation has been more than sympathetic to our concerns. International terrorism forms the subject of discussions between India and the Russian Federation at the highest level, as well as at the Ministerial and Official levels. With Japan, the issue of international terrorism has been discussed at senior official levels. Both sides have agreed to cooperate and consult with each other on issues related to international terrorism including trans-border terrorism.

(e)-(h) Government have been, effectively and appropriately, bringing to the notice of the international community the reasons for Pakistan`s unprovoked firing along the LOC and the facts regarding Pakistan`s state sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan`s role in sponsoring cross border terrorism in India and the impact this has on the security of the country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the statements by official spokesmen of several foreign governments and in the coverage on Pakistan by the international media.